

## **Background**

This item is designed to provide the Board an opportunity to assess the organization's progress to date, identify areas for improvement and/or additional focus and discuss key opportunities and challenges for the future

## **Current Status**

The following suggestions are provided for purposes of initiating the discussion:

- Review of key elements of the Strategic Plan
  - Key Guiding Principles, How Are We Doing?
  - Are there additional actions to be taken at this time?
  - Are there areas in Need of Modification in the Plan?
    - Climate Change?
    - Non Grant-related activities?
    - Other?
- Major Issues in the Sierra; How Are We Addressing Them
  - Climate Change
    - What should the focus of the SNCCI be?
    - How should we factor in climate change issues in grant evaluation and implementation?
    - Are there other things we can be doing?
  - Fire
    - Is there a potential Role for Coordination of Information and Activities, resulting in more strategic and coordinated efforts relating to reducing the risk of catastrophic fire? (CalFire, Federal Agencies, Local Communities, Fire Safe Councils, etc).
    - Reducing Fuels
      - How do we measure performance/success?
      - How do we encourage long term maintenance?
      - What are the effects/benefits related to climate change?
      - Can biomass/green energy efforts generate additional activity?
    - Wildland Urban Interface/Land Use
      - What role can we play in assisting local governments with planning efforts in these areas?

- Water
  - What role can we play in addressing climate change effects on water supply and management?
  - What role can we play in assisting the Region in the State Water Plan, IRWMPs, etc.?
  - How do we increase investment in the Region's watersheds?
- Opportunities and Threats
  - Funding – Life after Proposition 84 -- Are there other funding sources to pursue?
  - Pacific Forest and Watershed Stewardship Council Activities -- What should the SNC role be?
  - Opportunities for improving Rural Economic Vitality through SNC related activities – are there particular areas to focus on (i.e., biomass, green energy) that have multiple program benefits?
  - Sierra Nevada Issues related to the SNCC Program
    - Wastewater Treatment – what role should SNC play?
    - Local Water Supply Issues– what role should SNC play?

### **Next Steps**

Staff will be providing the Board proposed modifications to the SNC Strategic Plan at the December 2008 meeting, consistent with input from the Board. It is anticipated any proposed changes would be adopted following public comment at the March 2009 Board meeting. Staff will also be implementing the Climate Change Initiative (assuming Board approval) and will follow up on any other direction from the Board on these issues.

### **Recommendation**

**The Board may wish to provide direction to staff relative to the Strategic Plan Update and/or other activities of the SNC.**

# SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

## Guiding Principles

### How we operate:

- Be transparent in our decision-making and communicate openly.
- Strive to be neutral so everyone can participate.

### Our key objectives:

- Add value to community and regional efforts.
- Provide a regional focus for Sierra Nevada issues.
- Assist with community-based solutions.
- Use and build on the best available information and science.
- Educate people about the important contributions of the Sierra Nevada
- Protect, conserve and enhance the unique resources of the Sierra Nevada
- Find integrated solutions that serve environmental, social and economic needs.

### Implementing our programs:

- Reach out to communities and seek to meet their needs, be flexible.
- Give priority to programs that benefit more than one program goal.
- Leverage resources from other organizations.
- Consider potential impacts on surrounding lands.
- Buy local, support the Sierra Nevada region.

### Working with others:

- Cooperate with and support local government and other partners.
- Be a catalyst and facilitator to bring people together.
- Acknowledge and respect the missions, responsibilities and obligations of other agencies and organizations.